



FARM

Farm Animal Reform Movement

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)

Food and Drug Administration

5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061

Rockville, MD 20852

Comments regarding FDA's strategy to reduce egg-borne diseases (Docket No.s:
98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197)

To Whom It May Concern:

We welcome the opportunity to comment on FDA's strategy to reduce egg-borne disease. FDA must do more than put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. Warning labels merely address the symptom of the problem. FDA must attack the cause of the egg contamination--widespread disease in hens.

Forced molting, a standard practice in the egg industry of starving hens for up to fourteen days, has been scientifically shown to promote disease by starving hens' immune systems. Forced molting is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs and consumers.

FDA was petitioned in April of 1998 to ban forced molting. FDA has jurisdiction to ban animal husbandry practices that are proved to injure human health. For these reasons, FDA should grant the petition immediately.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on this important food safety issue.

Sincerely,

Lucy Goodrum, Esq.
Research Director

Recycled Paper

96P0418

"Saving Our Planet - One Bite at a Time"

C17

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ **C17**

See File Number: 97P-0197/ **C18**

96P-0418/ **C17**